



GREEN SPRING GARDENS PARK

PLANT INFORMATION SHEET

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RECOMMENDED SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED EVERGREEN SHRUBS FOR THE WASHINGTON, D.C. AREA

Evergreen shrubs are valued for their relatively constant foliage year-round. Many evergreen shrubs have other attractive features, such as beautiful flowers and fruit. The holly osmanthus, for example, has fragrant autumn flowers. To maximize landscape interest, combine evergreen shrubs with deciduous shrubs and other plants in your landscape.

The following are useful definitions:

- **Border** - a bed that is longer than wide and planted with trees, shrubs, flowers, and/or other types of plants. May be backed by walls, fences, or hedges and is chiefly viewed from one side. Free-standing island beds are a variation on the border.
- **Cultivar (cv.)** - a cultivated variety designated by single quotes (e.g., 'Duke Gardens'). A **variety (var.)** or **subspecies (subsp.)**, in contrast, is found in nature and is a subdivision of a species.
- **Full Shade** - the amount of light under a dense deciduous tree canopy or beneath evergreens.
- **Naturalistic Use** - native plants that, when properly sited, perform well with minimal care; best used in an informal design that suggests a natural landscape.
- **Part Shade** - the amount of light in an area shaded part of the day, among deciduous trees with high branches, among deciduous trees with foliage that is not heavy, or among thinned deciduous woods.
- **Semi-evergreen** - a plant whose foliage is green for only part of the winter or only part of the foliage is fully evergreen.

The following is a list of small and medium-sized evergreen and semi-evergreen shrubs that perform well in the Washington, D.C. area. Most of these shrubs prefer a moist, well-drained site. Light requirements and special cultural requirements or tolerances are noted in the comments column. Recommended cultivars are noted in parentheses. Species that are native to Virginia are marked with an asterisk (*).

[Gold Medal Plant Awards are given annually by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to underused woody plants that perform especially well in gardens from New York City to Washington, D.C.]

MEDIUM-SIZED EVERGREEN SHRUBS (5-12 FEET TALL)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Abelia</i> × <i>grandiflora</i> (‘Sunrise’)	Glossy Abelia	Border, hedge, or groups; full sun to part shade; semi-evergreen to evergreen; tolerates dry sites
<i>Aucuba japonica</i> (‘Rozannie’, ‘Variegata’)	Japanese Aucuba	Border or groups; light shade to full shade; tolerates dry sites but not extreme drought
<i>Camellia</i> cultivars that are winter hardy: ‘Ashton’s Pride’, ‘Pink Icicle’, & ‘Winter’s Star’ are some of the hardy cvs.; [<i>C. japonica</i> ‘Korean Fire’ won a Gold Medal Award]; many hardy camellias have <i>C. oleifera</i> parentage	Winter Hardy Camellias	Border or groups; light shade to part shade; tolerate dry sites; best to plant in the spring so well established before winter (even hardy camellias can be killed to the ground in very cold winters, then resprout)
<i>Cephalotaxus harringtonia</i> cvs.: ‘Duke Gardens’, ‘Fastigiata’, & ‘Prostrata’ [Gold Medal Award] Note: <i>C. harringtonia</i> var. <i>sinensis</i> (<i>C. sinensis</i>) is a lovely medium-sized shrub	Japanese Plum Yew	Border or groups; ‘Fastigiata’ can be used as a hedge; full sun to full shade; ‘Duke Gardens’ & ‘Prostrata’ are small shrubs; tolerates dry sites
<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> dwarf & slow-growing cvs.(generally medium-sized & small shrubs): attractive cvs. include ‘Dainty Doll’, ‘Elf’, ‘Elmwood Gold’, ‘Filicoides’, ‘Kosteri’, ‘Nana’, ‘Nana Gracilis’, ‘Nana Lutea’, & ‘Snowkist’ <i>C. pisifera</i> ‘Golden Mop’	Dwarf Hinoki Falsecypress Golden Mop Falsecypress	Border; full sun to light shade; moist sites preferred, especially when young Groups or border; full sun to light shade; small initially but grows to be medium-sized
<i>Ilex</i> China Boy® (‘Mesdob’) & China Girl® (‘Mesog’) <i>I. cornuta</i> ‘Dwarf Burford’ (‘Burfordii’ is similar but a large shrub) Note: <i>I. crenata</i> ‘Sky Pencil’ is an excellent columnar form; <i>I. × meserveae</i> Blue Princess® performs well in the Washington, D.C. area if sited properly: prefers light to part shade in well-drained soil (Blue Prince® & Blue Stallion® [‘Mesan’] are male pollinators); Blue Maid® (‘Mesid’) [Gold Medal Award]	China Boy & China Girl Holly Dwarf Burford Holly	Groups, border, or hedge; full sun to part shade; need male & female for fruit set; tolerate dry sites in shady areas Border, groups, hedge, or screen; full sun to part shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Illicium floridanum</i> (native to FL, etc.; ‘Halley’s Comet’)	Florida Anise-tree	Border or groups; full sun to full shade

<i>Juniperus</i> 'Grey Owl'	Grey Owl Juniper	Border, screen, or groups; full sun; tolerates dry sites; at least some native <i>J. virginiana</i> * parentage – a female that has lots of blue cones
<i>Kalmia latifolia</i> * (‘Bullseye’, ‘Olympic Fire’, ‘Pristine’, ‘Richard Jaynes’)	Mountain Laurel	Naturalistic use, groups, or border in naturally moist sites w/ good drainage – doesn’t like a lot of overhead irrigation; light shade to part shade
<i>Leucothoe</i> (now <i>Agarista</i>) <i>populifolia</i> Note: native to SC, etc.	Florida Leucothoe	Border, groups, or screen; light shade to full shade
<i>Osmanthus heterophyllus</i> (‘Goshiki’ is variegated) Note: <i>Osmanthus americanus</i> * - naturalistic use	Holly Osmanthus	Hedge, screen, or groups; full sun to part shade; tolerates dry sites; <i>O. americanus</i> likes full sun to light shade
<i>Picea pungens</i> ‘Glauca Globosa’ Note: ‘Iseli Fastigate’ is a columnar form; <i>P. abies</i> ‘Nidiformis’ (Bird’s Nest Spruce) is a broad plant with dark green needles	Dwarf Colorado Blue Spruce	Border; full sun in moist, well-drained sites – site carefully because can be short-lived if not sites properly
<i>Pyracantha</i> cvs. that are disease resistant: ‘Apache’, ‘Fiery Cascade’, ‘Mohave’, ‘Rutgers’, & ‘Teton’	Disease-resistant Firethorn	Border, hedge, screen, barrier, espalier, or groups; full sun to light shade; tolerates dry sites; ‘Rutgers’ - small shrub
<i>Rhododendron maximum</i> * & cvs. that are adapted to our area such as ‘Roseum Elegans’	Rosebay Rhododendron & Heat Tolerant Rhododendron Cultivars	Border use for both; naturalistic use for <i>R. maximum</i> ; light shade to part shade in moist sites with good drainage; contact the local American Rhododendron Society for other good cultivars (harder to grow than azaleas in our area)
<i>Thuja occidentalis</i> * ‘Sunkist’ (‘Hetz Midget’ is a small shrub)	Sunkist Eastern Arborvitae	Border; full sun to light shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Viburnum</i> × <i>burkwoodii</i> (‘Mohawk’ [Gold Medal Award] is deciduous; ‘Conoy’ [Gold Medal Award] is evergreen; species type tends to be semi-evergreen) V. ‘Chesapeake’ V. × <i>pragense</i>	Burkwood Viburnum Chesapeake Viburnum Prague Viburnum	Border, screen, groups, or hedge; full sun to part shade; tolerate dry sites

SMALL EVERGREEN SHRUBS (2-5 FEET TALL)

Scientific Name	Common Name	Comments
<i>Buxus harlandii</i> <i>B. microphylla</i> ('Compacta', <i>B. microphylla</i> var. <i>japonica</i> & var. <i>sinica</i> , var. <i>koreana</i> 'Winter Gem' & 'Wintergreen') <i>B. sempervirens</i> 'Vardar Valley' [Gold Medal Award]; 'Graham Blandy' is a columnar cv.; cultivars of var. <i>koreana</i> x <i>B. sempervirens</i> include 'Green Gem' (very slow growing) & 'Green Velvet' [Gold Medal Award]	Harland Boxwood Littleleaf Boxwood Vardar Valley Boxwood	Hedge, groups, or border; full sun to light shade; tolerate dry sites This species likes a soil pH of 6 or higher (more alkaline)
<i>Danae racemosa</i>	Alexandrian-laurel	Border or groups; light shade to part shade
<i>Ilex glabra</i> * 'Densa' [Gold Medal Award], Nordic® ('Chamzin'), & 'Shamrock' (the most compact forms); 'Compacta' is more open at the base like the species <i>I. opaca</i> * 'Maryland Dwarf' (another dwarf is 'Clarendon Spreading')	Inkberry Holly Maryland Dwarf Holly	Hedge, groups, border, or naturalistic use; full sun to light shade in moist or periodically wet sites Border; full sun to part shade; tolerates dry sites
<i>Juniperus chinensis</i> 'Plumosa Aurea' & 'Saybrook Gold' <i>J. davurica</i> 'Expansa Variegata' <i>J. sabina</i> 'Broadmoor' Note: groundcovers <i>J. squamata</i> 'Blue Star' & <i>J. procumbens</i> 'Greenmound' - don't crowd them like most groundcovers are grown	Golden Chinese Juniper Expansa Variegata Juniper Broadmoor Juniper	Border or groups; need good drainage & tolerate dry sites
<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i> *	Drooping Leucothoe	Border or naturalistic use; light shade to full shade
<i>Nandina domestica</i> 'Moon Bay' (has not set fruit at Green Spring; fruiting forms starting to invade woodland areas at Green Spring)	Moon Bay Nandina	Groups or border; full sun to part shade; tolerates dry sites

<p><i>Pinus parviflora</i> dwarf & slow-growing cvs. including 'AOI', 'Cleary', & 'Koko-no-e' ('Glauca Nana' is a slow-growing but medium-sized conifer)</p> <p>Note: <i>P. strobus</i>* cvs. such as 'Blue Jay' & 'Merrimack' doing well on well-drained, north-facing slope at Green Spring, but in more level sites these dwarf cvs. have died when fairly young (fungal pathogens)</p>	Dwarf Japanese White Pine Cultivars	Border; full sun; tolerates dry sites (needs good drainage)
<p><i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> cvs. ('Marbled White' [Castlewellan] is variegated; 'Mt. Vernon' is a dwarf)</p>	Cherry Laurel Cultivars	Border, groups, or hedge; full sun (moist site) to full shade; tolerates dry sites
<p><i>Rhododendron</i> hybrids & cvs. (Gable, Girard, Glenn Dale, Kurume, & Robin Hill Hybrids)</p>	Hybrid Evergreen Azaleas	Border or groups; light shade to part shade; sizes vary from dwarf to large-sized depending upon the cultivar
<p><i>Rhododendron carolinianum</i> (a native to NC, etc.) (rhododendron lovers can try heat tolerant hybrids such as 'Ken Janeck' – rhododendrons are harder to grow in our area than azaleas)</p>	Carolina Rhododendron	Border or groups; light shade to part shade
<p><i>Viburnum</i> 'Eskimo' [Gold Medal Award]</p>	Eskimo Viburnum	Groups or border; full sun to light shade

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